

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP



A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

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Whole No. 315

The Pseudonyms of Edward S. Ellis

by Denis R. Rogers

My Plucky Boy Tom

by EDWARD S. ELLIS



**THE PSEUDONYMS OF
EDWARD S. ELLIS**
by Denis R. Rogers
Part II — Ghost-Writing

The first publication of the six juveniles appearing under the name of P. T. Barnum falls into two distinct periods. In the first (June/September 1877) Frank Leslie's Boys' & Girls' Weekly published "Lion Jack," "Jack in the Jungle" and "The Iron Eel." The second period (May 1887/April 1889) produced "Dick Broadhead" (Golden Argosy), "My Plucky Boy Tom" (New York Family Story Paper) and "Across Australia" (Golden Hours). The New York Family Story Paper also serialized "My Life and Adventures as a Showman" by P. T. Barnum and reprints of "Lion Jack" and "Jack in the Jungle" during this period.

The only definite information we have about the authorship of these is that Ellis almost certainly wrote "My Plucky Boy Tom," since Street & Smith's Medal Library reprint (No. 293: 14 Jan. 1905) is "by P. T. Barnum, compiled by Edward S. Ellis" on the title page and "by Edward S. Ellis" on the cover.

However quite a strong case can be made out for Ellis authorship of all six tales. Ellis, on his own admission—e.g., in "The Hunt of the White Elephant" (Davis & Elverson's "Saturday Night" Vol. XIV, No. 37, 26 May 1877 to No. 48, 11 Aug. 1877)

was acquainted with Barnum.

At the time "Lion Jack," "Jack in the Jungle" and "The Iron Eel" were appearing in Frank Leslie's Boys' & Girls' Weekly (1876/1877), Ellis was a frequent contributor. One of his serials—"Romeo on the Rampage or High Jinks among the Redskins," under the pen name Oscar A. Gwynne (Vol. XXIII, No. 569, 15 Sept. 1877 to No. 578, 17 Nov. 1877) was about an escaped circus elephant. In another serial by Ellis there appears the following paragraph:

Grubbens first supposition was that it was some lion that, escaping from his menagerie, had found his way into this part of the world. The sense of himself and friends being crunched to nothingness in the massive jaws of the king of beasts was enough to appall the heart of Gordon Cumming or "Lion Jack" himself. ("The Young Rangers of the Black Hills or Young America and Ireland in the Great Northwest" under the pen name of Lieutenant R. H. Jayne, Chapter XXIV, Page 269, Frank Leslie's Boys' & Girls' Weekly, Vol. XXII, No. 555, 9 June 1877).

This looks sound circumstantial evidence for Ellis authorship of "Lion Jack" in that, unless he had a hand in that story, it is improbable Ellis would have thought of introducing the above casual reference into "The Young Rangers of the Black Hills," especially since a year had elapsed since the serialization of "Lion Jack."

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(Frank Leslie's Boys' & Girls' Weekly, Vol. XX, No. 503, 10 June 1876 to No. 516, 9 Sep. 1876).

In support of this theory may be cited the following extracts from an article by G. Cordier—"Popular Story Papers of Other Days"—in the July 1939 issue of "The Dime Novel Round Up" (Vol. 8, No. 88, Page 9):

"Hemyng was only the first of a brilliant staff of writers who wrote the stories that successively filled the pages of the (Frank Leslie's) Boys' & Girls' Weekly. Among them—Roger Starbuck, W. O. Stoddard, Nat. D. Urner, Edward S. Ellis (under many pen names). The P. T. Barnum stories were written by him."

AND

"Thinking it might be of interest . . . we select a few of the titles of stories that ran their course in that highly popular paper . . . and "Lion Jack" and "Jack in the Jungle"; both written by Edward S. Ellis for Phineas T. Barnum, the famous showman."

Unfortunately George Cordier is long since dead and his source of information has not been preserved.

When Frank Munsey began "The Golden Argosy" he had to work for some years on a shoestring and one of the authors who helped him put the paper on the map was Edward S. Ellis. When "Dick Broadhead" appeared (Vol. 5, No. 25 (233), 21 May 1887 to No. 39 (247), 27 Aug. 1887), a serial by Ellis ("The Camp in the Mountains," Vol. 5, No. 4 (212) 25 Dec. 1886 to No. 17 (225), 26 May 1887) was already running "The Golden Argosy" and another Ellis tale ("The Last War Trail," Vol. 5. No. 18 (226), 2 Apr. 1887 to No. 30 (238), 25 June 1887) started only a few issues later. Yet another Ellis story ("The Haunted Engine or Jack Marvin's Run," Vol. 5, No. 31 (239) 2 July 1887 to No. 34 (242), 23 July 1887) was also published before the serialization of "Dick Broadhead" had been completed. According to Frank Luther Mott ("History of American Magazines," Vol. 3, 1865-1885) Ellis was for some time editor of "Golden Argosy" for Munsey; the year 1887

would fit in with his known periods as editor of "Golden Days" for James Elverson and of "The Boys' Holiday" (later "The Holiday") for The Woolfall Publishing Company.

So far as I know only two serials quite definitely by Ellis appeared in Norman Munro publications, namely:

1. Jack Darcy, the All-Around Athlete or Fighting His Way to Fortune ("Golden Hours," Vol. II, No. 31, 1 Sep. 1888 to No. 40, 3 Nov. 1888)
2. The Telegraph Messenger Boy or The Straight Road to Success ("Golden Hours," Vol. II, No. 52, 26 Jan. 1889 to Vol. III, No. 58, 9 March 1889).

It is surely significant that these two stories were published just after "My Plucky Boy Tom" ("The New York Family Story Paper," Vol. 15, No. 742, 24 Dec. 1887 to No. 761, 5 May 1888) and just before "Across Australia or Adventures in the Land of Contraries" ("Golden Hours," Vol. III, No. 54, 9 Feb. 1889 to No. 63, 13 April 1889) and, also, pertinent that "Jack Darcy" is a circus tale. Further it looks more than chance that Ellis was connected with all three publishers at the time their Barnum serials appeared, especially as he ceased writing for Frank Leslie in 1882, for Frank Munsey in 1890 and for Norman Munro in 1889. I find it equally significant that Ellis' only known connection with Norman Munro—and that a very short one—should have coincided with the few Barnum serials appearing in Norman Munro publications.

In his biography of the great showman ("Barnum," Garden City Publishing Co., Inc., 1923), M. R. Werner attributes "Lion Jack," "Jack in the Jungle" and "Dick Broadhead"—incidentally the only tales reprinted in cloth—to the circus press agent. The press agent is said to have written also another Barnum book: "The Wild Beasts, Birds and Reptiles of the World: The Story of their Capture."

Mr. Werner no longer has the notes of his Barnum book and, understandably after so long a lapse of time, cannot recall the source of his infor-

mation (Letter to the writer, dated 31 October, 1957). Therefore it is possible to do no more than record this rival claim to authorship of "Lion Jack," "Jack in the Jungle" and "Dick Broadhead," being careful to point out that there is no evidence to suggest that Ellis was connected in any way with "The Wild Beasts, Birds and Reptiles of the World."

It seems safe to dismiss any suggestion that Barnum wrote the juveniles himself. Long before 1876 Barnum was far too wealthy to need to augment his income by writing. Moreover Barnum preferred to delegate his "donkey work." Certainly he wouldn't have been writing a juvenile tale within a few days of the fire which destroyed the winter quarters of Barnum and Bailey's Circus on 20 November, 1887. It is even doubtful whether the initiative for the Barnum juveniles came from the showman himself. Frank Leslie, Frank Munsey and Norman Munro were three very astute publishers, who probably aimed at stimulating the circulation of their periodicals by the use of Barnum's name—for a fee, of course.

The only serial, in my opinion, in which Barnum may have had a hand appears to be "My Life and Adven-

tures as a Showman," since he definitely did write his own life—revising it time and again!

From all this I conclude that Ellis definitely wrote "My Plucky Boy Tom" and probably wrote all the other six serials, except perhaps "My Life and Adventures as a Showman." I also conclude that, probably, the Circus Press Agent was responsible only for "The Wild Beasts, Birds and Reptiles of the World."

The objection may be raised that Ellis was a very popular juvenile author in his own right long before 1876 and so would not have needed to "ghost write" for a living. That is true, but Ellis was also most prolific and "guilty" of a number of literary hoaxes—e.g., the Capt. J. F. C. Adams stories for Beadle and Adams. Thus a few extra serials under Barnum's name would have presented no difficulty to Ellis so far as output was concerned. Nor, I think, would the use of Barnum's name as author have offended Ellis' pride, touchy though he could be on such matters at times.

Probably proof will never come to light, so the reader must just make up his own mind about the rival claims to authorship of the Barnum tales.

End of Part Two.

NOTE

The following corrections should be made to the Munro's 10c Novels Bibliographic Listing (Supplement No. 2, dated October 1958).

Page 27 Manning, W. H. (Note 34) should read (Note 26)

Page 30 Wentworth, Charles (Note 18) should read (Note 14).

Page 30 Wentworth, Charles. The following title was omitted in error.

Old Jim of the Woods; or, The Maid of the Timpanagos.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

208. Lewis F. Ehrlich, 2440 K Street, Eureka, Calif. (New member)
216. William J. Malone, Center Bldg., Bristol, Conn. (New Member)
217. George C. Trefry, 268 Hemlock St., Brooklyn 8, N. Y. (New Member)
218. Periodical Dept., Cornell U. Library, Ithaca, N. Y. (New Member)
219. F. Toole Stott, 4 Clarewood Court, Seymour Place, London, W. 1, Engl'd
220. Lyle F. Buchwitz, Box 576, University Station, Grand Forks, N. Dak.
221. Arthur Moyse, 39 Minford Gardens, West Kensington, London W.14, Eng
222. Casimir J. Prell, 632 S. Houston Ave., Chicago 17, Ill. (New Member)
223. Ralph J. Barney, Canaan, N. H. (New Member)
224. W. Hall, 46 Walder Rd., Hammondville, via Liverpool, N.S.W., Australia
190. Harry K. Hudson, 3300 San Bernardino St., Clearwater, Fla. (New Add.)
225. E. W. Lang, Cushing Hospital, Framingham, Mass. (New Member)
24. Floyd L. Beagle, 34 Park Ave., Latham, N. Y. (New Address)
226. P. C. Steinbrunner, 62-52 82nd St., Elmhurst 79, Queens, L. I., N. Y.

On Stage, Mr. Carter

by J. Edward Leithead

(continued from last issue)

On page 65 of his book, Mr. Reynolds states that Nick Carter never smoked. But he did—cigars, and plenty of them. When Author Richard Wormser wrote "Nick Carters" for Nick Carter Magazine (40 issues, 1933 to 1936), he made the detective practically a chain-smoker of cigarettes. I've never heard of a veteran cigar-smoker (I'm one myself) going in heavily for cigarettes. However, Mr. Wormser did this for old-time Nick Carter fans: he not only put new life into Nick, but Chick, Patsy, Roxy the circus-trained girl detective and Con Connors, the Federal agent. In the August 1935 issue of Nick Carter Magazine, Nick had a case which took him to Soviet Russia, called "The Moscow Mission." In many of the older tales, Nick's detective exploits had Czarist Russia as a background.

I doubt if Fred Dey had anything to do with the long run of Trim Carter stories that started off the color cover Nick Carter Weekly (which was to be the longest of all Nick Carter series, 819 issues). Personally, I'd never have picked these stories of Chick Carter's son, who became a detective and jumped all over the map—Alaska, Australia, Africa, Detroit, Cincinnati and Kansas City, U. S. A. and Mexico—bagging criminals, to launch a new magazine. This youthful detective may have appealed to some juvenile readers, but a reprint of Nick Carter Library #48, "Nick Carter's Handicap," a more adult type of yarn, appeared in Nick Carter Weekly #28 under the title, "Nick Carter at the Track," after 27 issues of Trimble Carters.

There was another Trim in #29, then a reprint of the Library #49 with title changed to "Nick Carter's Railroad Case" in the Weekly #30. A few more "Trims," a few more Library reprints, then, with #40, "Nick Carter's Detective School, or, The Young Reporter's First Case" began a series about young pupils learning

the detective profession—Roxy, the girl detective, Bob Ferret, Jack Burton, Buff; they kept going up to #88, "Bob Ferret's Government Message, or, The King Spy of the Outfit," and I believe that ended the detective school stories.

By that time there must have been an insistent call for the chief himself—"On stage, Mr. Carter!" So Nick took the center of it from #89, "Nick Carter's Poker Game," onward. For awhile some were reprints from the Library (often with titles changed), some were new. Fred Dey must have been getting some ahead, for, with #372 he started the Dazaar series, "Dazaar, the Arch Fiend," and after that no reprints for years, but with some expert assistance from Frederick W. Davis, another top-flight detective story writer who had done "Nick Carters" before, and W. Bert Foster, who could write detective or Western equally well, and had turned out some good Harrison Keith stories for New Magnet Library.

Like all mystery and detective story writers, Fred Dey kept an eye on the news of real-life crimes which might contain the germ of a plot. Therefore, in the early 1900's, the case of one Lieutenant Herman Becker, of the New York Police, convicted of connection with the underworld, and involved in the murder of Herman Rosenthal (and finally executed, with four gangsters), must have interested Dey, for about 1912 he produced three related stories whose chief villain was a crooked police official and obviously suggested by the Lieutenant Becker case, though of course fictitious names were used: #761, "A Double Identity, or, Nick Carter and the Inspector," #762, "The Mocker's Stratagem, or, Nick Carter's Smartest Adversary," #763, "The Man That Came Back, or, Nick Carter's Finish Fight."

Around 1907-08-09, there was an artist named J. A. Cahill who did

FOR SALE

KIRK MUNROE: (\$1.25 each) *The White Conquerors*, Scribner, 1893: *The White Conquerors*, Scribner, 1908: *The Painted Desert*, Harper, 1897: *Brethren of the Coast*, Scribner, 1900: *Snowshoes & Sledges*, Harper, 1895: *The Fur Seal's Tooth*, Harper, 1898: *With Crockett and Bowie*, Scribner, 1897: *Forward March*, Harper, 1899: *A Son of Satsuma*, Scribner, 1901: *Under the Great Bear*, Harper, 1900: *The Belt of 7 Totems*, Lippincott, 1902.

H. KINGSTON: (\$1.50 each) *The Three Midshipmen*, Farran & Co., illus. by Geo. Thomas, J. Portch, etc.: *Three Admirals*, Griffith Farran, illus. by J. R. Wells & G. J. Staniland: *The Three Commanders*, by the late Wm. H. G. Kingston, illus. by Friston: *The Three Lieutenants*, by the late W. H. G. Kingston: *The Missing Ship*, by the late W. H. G. Kingston: *Twice Lost*, by the late W. H. G. Kingston, with 46 engravings: *Peter the Whaler*, by Wm. H. G. Kingston: *Salt Water*, by the late Wm. H. G. Kingston: *A Voyage Round the World*, by W. H. G. Kingston, with 40 engravings: *On The Banks of the Amazon*, with 100 illus.: Will Weatherhelm. Also Paperback, *Dick Onslow Among the Indians*, by Kingston, (Farm and Fireside Library).

HENRY COCKTON: (\$1.25) *The Life and Adventures of Valentine Vox*, Routledge.

COLLINGWOOD: *Voyage of the Aurora*, \$2.50: *Cruise of the Esmeralda*, \$3: *The Missing Merchantman*, \$2.50.

CAPT. MAYNE REID: *The White Chief*, in 3 vols., 1855, First Ed., Fine cond. lowered to \$17.50: *The White Chief*, 1 vol., bound in green cloth, 1875, \$2.50: *The Child Wife*, in 3 vols., 1868, contains handwritten note by Mayne Reid, in excellent cond., \$15.00: *The Boy Slaves*, illus., Tickner & Fields, fine cond., \$2.00: *The Forest Exiles*, 12 illus., \$3.00: *Odd People*, illus., \$2.00: *The Cliff Climbers*, illus., bookplate of Wm. W. Farr, \$2.00: *The Plant Hunters*, illus., author's edition, \$2.25: *Bruin*, \$2.25: *War Trail*, beautifully illus. with orig. designs engraved by N. Orr, 1857, DeWitt, green cloth binding, \$4.00: *The War Trail*, reprinted from Chambers' Journal, \$2.00: *Osceola the Seminole*, 1869, Carleton, \$2.00: *Osceola The Seminole*, beautif. illus. with orig. designs engraved by N. Orr (DeWitt) \$3.50: *La Casa en el Desierto* (Translated) Appleton, 1875, \$2.00.

CAPT. F. S. BRERETON: *With Roberts to Canadahar*, 1906, \$1.25: *How Canada Was Won*, \$1.25: *Foes of the Red Cockade*, \$1.25: *With French at the Front*, illus. by Arch. Webb, \$1.25.

HERBERT STRANG: *One of Clive's Heroes*, 1918, \$2.50: *Adventures of Harry Rochester*, illus. by Wm. Rainey, 1905, \$2.50.

BALLANTYNE: *Blown to Bits*, 1889, \$3.00: *Rivers of Ice*, 1875, \$3.00: *Dusty Diamonds*, 1884, \$2.50: *The Red Eric*, 1861, illus. by Coleman, bookplate of B. G. Astley, 1st edition, \$4.00: *Fighting the Flames*, 1867, \$3.00: *The Fugitives*, 1887, \$3.00: *The Floating Light*, illus. by author, 1870, \$3.00: *The Gorilla Hunters*, 1873, \$3.00: *Life in the Red Brigade*, illus., 1st edition, \$3.75.

COL. H. R. GORDON: *Pontiac, Chief of the Ottawas*, 1897, \$2.00.

Also have many Edward S. Ellis books—List on request.

JAMES A. COOPER: *Cap'n. Jonah's Fortune*, Frontispiece by A. O. Scott, Burt, \$1.50.

HARRY PRENTICE: *The Slate Picker*, illus., 1892, \$2.50.

ALSO have books by E. T. Tomlinson, Harry Castlemon, James Otis and Oliver Optics.

Almost all of these have been reduced in price.

ANTHONY COMSTOCK: Traps for the Young, Introduction by J. M. Buckley, D.D., 1883, \$2.50.

J. R. SIMMS: Nathan Hale, The American Spy, 8 vo., orig. wrapper, long out of print and very rare, Albany, 1857, bound in boards, mint cond. \$5.

ROBERT M. DeWITT, paperback: The White Hand, or, The Jewelled Snake, \$1

THE ALDINE LIBRARY: \$1.00 each: Deadwood Dick's Dust: Unraveling a Twisted Skein, or Deadwood Dick in Gotham: Sawdust Sam's Last Green Game, or, Deadwood Dick After the Queer: Deadwood Dick's Comrades.

LOVELL'S LIBRARY, 15 issues: 75c each. The Red Track; Queen of the Savannah: The Rebel Chief, Pirates of the Prairies: Border Rifles The Insurgent Chief: The Trappers of Arkansas: The Trapper's Daughter: The Prairie Flower: The Guide of the Desert: Stronghand, Red River Half Breed: The Tiger Slayer: The Bee Hunters.

JOHN De MORGAN: Marion and His Men, Street & Smith—Boys of Liberty Library—paperback, \$1.00.

THE BOY DETECTIVE, by Old Sleuth, The Calumet Series, Geo. Munro's Sons, \$1.00.

HALSEY PAGE: Dashaway Charlie On the Plains, illus., paperback, \$1.00.

EDNA LYALL: Won by Waiting, Avon Ed., new binding, brown but very good \$2; Knight-Errant, morocco & marble boards, Crowell, good cond., \$2; Donovan, excellent condition, \$2.50; We Two, Excellent cond., \$2.50.

G. A. HENTY: The Queen's Cup, Chatto & Windus, very good cond., \$1.00: The Lost Heir, Lupton Publ. Co., \$1.00.

PALMER COX: Comic Yarns, First Edition, illus., Hubbard Bros., \$2.50.

THE VIRGINIANS: W. M. Thackeray, 1857. Vols. 1 to 24 inclusive, in a case. Letter from Wm. M. Thackeray to Wm. Allingham, Irish Poet, included. Letter dated January 4, 1860, fine condition, \$17.50.

BOYS OF THE WORLD—#1 to #79, complete, large size papers, good cond., reduced to \$35.00.

BOYS WORLD: Vol. 1, 45 numbers, collated, perfect, cover loose, book good, 1879 and 1880, reduced to \$5.00. Vol. 2, #46 to #99, collated, perfect, front cover slightly loose, 1880 and 1881, reduced to \$5.00.

YOUNG FOLKS PAPER: 3 Bound Volumes, fine condition. Jan. to June, 1889: July, 1889 to Dec., 1889: January to December, 1890. Also Christmas number for 1889 and 1890—Reduced to \$15.00.

GOLDEN DAYS: 9 books all newly bound, various colors, embossed and gold-lettered, fine condition. December 4, 1886 to November 16, 1895. \$35.00 for the 9—an excellent buy.

BURT L. STANDISH LIBRARY: 75c each—paperbacks. Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 10.

—paper backs—Aldine. Good and excel. cond.: Nos. 9 46 63 64 71 77 79 80 82 83 117 119 120 123 124 133 137 138 155 157 158 159 160 161 162 163 164 165 166. Also new series #330—All \$1.00 each.

NEW BUFFALO BILL WEEKLY: Street & Smith, 40c each. Issue No. 1, Sept. 14, 1912 to issue No. 356, July 5, 1919. Name was then changed to Western Story Magazine. Have issues, July 12, 1919 to August 30, 1919. Following numbers missing, 19 26 61 68 to 98, 103 104 107 111 124 125 126 142 161 168 194 195 198 199 206 214 215 216 223 233 268.

H. IRVING HANCOCK: The Motor Boat Club of the Kennebec, 75c.

Have reduced almost all of my stock in order to clear out my entire collection. If interested in other items, please contact me.

some very fine covers for Nick Carter Weekly, beginning with, as nearly as I can tell, #558, "Kid Curry's Last Stand." In this issue, the picture illustrating the story was enlarged, from the former 7x7½, to cover the whole front wrapper, except for masthead, issue number and date at the top. I think Cahill's covers ran, without a single miss, from #558 to 649, "A Triangle Clue." Charles L. Wrenn and F. A. Carter broke in with some covers after #649 (not by any means their first or last ones) and perhaps Cahill did a few later on, but not many. He did covers for no other Street & Smith novels that I know of, except a few for New Magnet Library. But his illustrations appeared often in Ainslee's and Smith's Magazines. My grandmother subscribed to Smith's Magazine for years, and it was here I first noticed a similarity in the style of Cahill's drawings for the magazine and the covers of Nick Carter Weekly mentioned.

Between #778 and #819, the last number of the Weekly, only these were new stories; #796 through 804, #808 through 810, #814 through 816. The rest were reprints.

Ceasing publication in 1912, the Weekly was replaced by Nick Carter Stories immediately. Mr. Dey contributed new stories for the first three issues at least, but Fred Davis wrote most of this series, with some reprints sandwiched in between the new stuff for a time. After 160 issues it became Detective Story Magazine in 1915. The first instalment of a Nick Carter serial by Davis, "The Yellow Label," was in the last issue of Nick Carter Stories, and the story continued in the new magazine. The complete story was reprinted under the same title in New Magnet #977.

The Magnet Library, changing its title to "New" and its size from 10c to 15c worth of reading matter with #484, had been published right along, without a break, since 1897. Nor was it to be discontinued for many years yet. It would be nice if, as has been suggested to me, I could break down Nick Carter reprints in Magnet into their original issues, as

Mr. Guinon so ably did in his fine article, "Reprints of the Merriwell Stories." But to do a similar thorough job with Nick Carter reprints would be next to impossible, for these reprints were not in order in many cases, a few were changed into Harrion Keith tales, others, like the Sheridan Keene stories in Shield Weekly were changed into Nick Carters, some were Old Broadbrims done over, some were Sexton Blakes toward the end, some contained a Nick Carter story combined with another story or stories whose source I couldn't trace. One would need, to check the Nick Carter reprints as were the Merriwell reprints, a set of New Magnet up to #1025 (above that ALL were reprints from its own list), complete sets of Nick Carter Library, Nick Carter Weekly, Nick Carter Stories, Old and Young Broadbrim Weekly, Shield Weekly, a lot of New York Weeklies and a lot of Sexton Blakes. And, besides, more time than I could give to such a task.

Here's something on Magnet Library #73, "Two Plus Two, or, A Millionaire Forger," sent me awhile ago by Mr. W. S. Houston, of Greensboro, N. C., which will give some idea of what a reprint checker would be up against.

One of the original stories—for there are evidently two that make up the 10-cent volume—was Nick Carter Library #75, "The Cincinnati Bank Robbery, or, Nick Carter's Great Forgery Case," which was reprinted in Nick Carter Weekly #111 as "A Scientific Forger, or, The Great Bank Swindle."

Now, although original and reprint were Nick Carter tales in the above two publications, and the 10-cent Magnet Library edition is signed "By Nicholas Carter," in this paperback Nick becomes Stuyvesant Crane, analogist—described in the first chapter as a "diagnotist of crime and criminal methods." This introductory chapter, written in the first person by "Nicholas Carter" as author, is part of another story, perhaps a Nick Carter also but one I couldn't figure out, for two tales, as I said before,

have been combined to fill the 203 pages that #73 contains. The Nick Carter forgery case, with Carter still called "Crane," doesn't begin until Chapter V. Under Nicholas Carter's name on the title page is this explanatory line: "From the Diary of a Well-Known New York Lawyer."

About the only clue in deciphering this reprint was the Magnet Library sub-title, "A Millionaire Forger" — something about forgery as a guide. Of course, not all reprints are as difficult to ferret out as that one—and that only half figured. The Shield Weekly (a total of 22 issues, with 16 Sheridan Keene tales by Fred Davis), was reprinted in its entirety in Magnet Library #224, "Played to a Finisht," #230, "A Race for Ten Thousand," #232, "The Red Signal," #234 "The Tell-tale Photographs," #236, "A Move in the Dark," #238, "The Claws of the Tiger," #244, "A Trusted Rogue," #274, "Paid With Death," making the necessary changes for Nick and his assistants, Chick, Patsy, Ida Jones, Bob Ferret and Jack Burton to play the parts of Sheridan Keene, Chief Inspector Watts of the Boston Detective Bureau and other Shield Weekly characters. Place names came in for change, too, from Boston, Pittsburgh and Chicago to New York.

Although the 16 Sheridan Keene tales were good and by a skilled detective story writer, Davis (under the pseudonym "Alden F. Bradshaw"), the Shield Weekly just didn't catch on. Any weekly that couldn't survive longer than 22 issues wasn't in the popular class in those days. A little farther on I want to say something about another detective weekly that lasted not even that long—but should have.

I can point out more reprints, a couple of the Dazaar series, for instance, in Magnet #409, "Nick Carter's Double Catch" and #427, "The Sign of the Dagger." There were 9 Dazaar stories by Fred Dey in Nick Carter Weekly, and one of them, entirely out of place with the other two reprints from the Weekly it was combined with (#471, "Bellini, of the

Black Hand" and #472, "The Black Hand's Nemesis"), was the story of the murder of Ethel Carter, Nick's wife. The three made up New Magnet Library #484, issued under the title "The Finger of Suspicion."

Quite likely the whole string of Dazaar stories were reprinted, but I know not in what numbers of Magnet. They may have been scattered far and wide, with many changes to make them almost unrecognizable, although I rather doubt the last in their particular case since the "Devil Worshipper" skulduggery of this set of criminals would be pretty hard to disguise. They even murdered by radium, inserted in the sweatband of hats worn by male victims.

It is easier to take two Nick Carter Weekly issues like #463, "The Millionaire Cracksman" and #464, "The Mystery Man," change Nick into Harrison Keith, Chick into Dick Rogers, Patsy into Mike Donovan, Ten-Ichi into Hans Brinkerman, and you have New Magnet #489, "Harrison Keith, Sleuth," which started a long run of "Harrison Keiths." Only a very few, earlier issues are suspect as reprints from other detective story sources. Most were new and good "whodunits." As the publishers truly stated in an ad on the back cover of a New Magnet issued in 1910, "There is no doubt whatever about the ability of Street & Smith to publish detective stories that are of absorbing interest . . ."

If you want to know the reprints of the various "Dr. Quartz" series in Magnet Library, they were #17, "The Piano Box Mystery," #442, "From a Prison Cell," #444, "Dr. Quartz, Magician," #450, "Dr. Quartz's Quick Move," #747, "Nick Carter's Subtle Foe" and #749 "Nick Carter's Chance Clue." These were all reprinted again above New Magnet #925 (which was "A Klondike Claim," reprint of #1).

I could go on listing reprints for a couple of pages probably, but of what use since it wouldn't be complete. I'd better talk a little about Frederick W. Davis, who wrote much under the pseudonym "Scott Camp-

bell." The publishers thought him important enough to call attention to his work thus in the back pages of Magnet #191, "The Murray Hill Mystery" (not his, by the way):

"Have you ever read the Detective Stories of Scott Campbell as published by Street & Smith in the Magnet Library? These are among the best detective stories ever written, being strong in plot, very interesting in style and thoroughly logical in their conclusions. The author is well-known to the readers of North America by his serial stories, which have appeared in the daily papers. This is the first time the public has been afforded the opportunity to purchase them in book form."

Then follows a list (none of them Nick Carters by Davis): Magnet #154 "Driven to the Wall," #158, "The Lion of the Law," #161, "A Plot for a Million," #164, "The Reporter Detective's Triumph," #167, "The Links in the Chain," #170, "The Doctor's Secret," #173, "The Honor of a Black Sheep," #176, "The Tragedy of Ascott Mills," #181, "The Man Outside," #185, "A Supernatural Clew," #190, "The Fate of Austin Craige." This does not end the list of stories that Davis wrote for Magnet under the pen name "Scott Campbell."

It is probable that he was the author of the twelve short stories in Magnet #93, "The Adventures of Harrison Keith, Detective." A close check of that two-year run of Nick Carter shorts in New York Weekly might reveal the source of these dozen Harrison Keiths with the detectives' names switched (even at that earlier period Davis could have written them): (1) "Orchestra Chair E, No. 3," (2) "Mildred's Chance Acquaintance" (3) "Insured for a Hundred Thousand" (4) "The Lady and the Bonds" (5) "A Lucky Young Man" (6) "The Pretty Diamond Drummer" (7) "The Girl Who Knew Too Much" (8) "Written in Blood" (9) "The Chest of Gold" (10) "The Name on the Stone" (11) "Lost: a Diamond" (12) "A Wheel Adventure."

Another writer who signed quite a

few early Magnets was "Judson R. Taylor." Mr. Reynolds tells us in "The Fiction Factory," page 40, that this was a pseudonym of Harlan P. Holsey, who created "Old Sleuth." "Taylor's" detective tales (not the Old Sleuth series, of course, which was published by George Munro) appeared in the New York Weekly, so possibly these saw first printing there before being issued in Magnet #139, "Fritz, the German Detective," #148, "Gipsy Blair, the Western Detective," 163, "Phil Scott, the Detective." He wrote many others for Street & Smith, including some stories in Log Cabin Library. His "Gipsy Blair" was also printed in the Shield Detective Series, a paperback line published by J. S. Ogilvie Co., not Street & Smith, and selling for 25 cents a copy. Ogilvie published another 25-cent book series, the Eureka Detective Series, which had another of "Taylor's," "Maccon Moore, the Southern Detective," a story of moonshiners in Southern Georgia. It was the Ogilvie Co., also, which put out the "Old Sleuth's Own" series of paperback books which sold for 10 cents.

(to be continued)

Ralph Gardner will appreciate it if some of you fellows will let him know the titles, publications and dates of the appearances of Horatio Alger's "minor output," that is, his poems, articles, short stories and pieces that never appeared in book form. Write to him at 745 Fifth Ave., New York 22, N. Y.

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